

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 17, 2003

Contact: PIO Jerry Wofford (928) 341-6500

**Border Patrol Agents rescue 14 illegal Aliens trapped in a van**  
*Driver identified and is pending charges*

**YUMA, Ariz.** – At 6:40 a.m. today, a van carrying 14 illegal aliens veered off the road into the Salinity Canal. Agents from the Yuma Station were responding to an area near the canal after receiving information that a van containing possible illegal aliens was leaving an area near the Colorado River.

It appears the driver lost control of the van as he attempted to cross over the canal. When agents arrived at the scene, they discovered the van to be mostly submerged. They immediately entered the canal and rescued 14 occupants from the vehicle.

Agents from the Border Patrol Search Trauma and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) arrived and examined all of the occupants providing first aid. The driver of the van has been identified and may be charged with alien smuggling and endangerment charges.

-CBP-